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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,124	02/11/2004	Kenichi Kawaguchi	60188-767	2618

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EXAMINER	
LEE, CHUN KUAN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2181	

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/775,124	KAWAGUCHI, KENICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee	2181	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 July 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *2-8,11 and 12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2-8,11 and 12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *20 July 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

FRITZ FLEMING
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100
9/20/2006

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-8 and 11-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Objection to drawings and claim rejections of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph are withdrawn. Currently, claims 1 and 9-10 are canceled and claims 2-8 and 11-12 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821).

AAPA teaches a data transfer control system and method connected to a bus for controlling a data transfer to a device on the bus, comprising:

a data storing step (Drawings, data register 143 of Fig. 19) comprising means for storing data (Drawings, Fig. 19-20B and Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7);

a transferred-word number storing step (Drawings, transferred-word number register 106 of Fig. 19) comprising means for storing the number of words of data which are to be transferred (Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7);

a bus cycle controlling step (Drawings, cycle control section 105 of Fig. 19) comprising means for controlling the data transfer such that, during a burst transfer, in a single bus cycle, a write control line (byte enable register of Fig. 20A-20B) of the bus is placed in a write-enabled state (byte enable register set to "0000") and is placed in a write-disabled state (periods when byte enable register is not set to "0000") in the other periods, and that data including a number of words which is equal to the number stored in the transferred-word number storing means is transferred while the write control line is in the write-enabled state (Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7); and

wherein the burst transfer include the transferring of address (e.g. addresses "4000000" and "4000008") following by the corresponding data (e.g. Data 1 and Data 2) (Fig. 20A-20B), wherein each transferring are of fix length as each transferring includes the address following by the one-word data.

AAPA does not teach the data transfer control system and method connected to the bus for controlling the data transfer to the device on the bus comprising:

a transfer interval storing step of storing an interval between data destination addresses of a plurality of one-word data which is included in the data which are to be transferred, the destination addresses being equally-separated with the interval;

the bus cycle controlling step placing a write control line of the bus in a write-enabled state for a one-word data transfer period and in a write-disabled state for an (N-

1) words data transfer period periodically, wherein N is the number stored in the transfer interval storing step; and

non-transfer interval storing means for storing an interval between addresses to which the data is not to be transferred;

Gephardt teaches a system and a method comprising:

transferring of a burst of data comprising an address and a number of data words or bytes (col. 1, ll. 35-40);

wherein the transferring includes an address disable signal to disable the internal address decoders of peripheral devices not involved in the transferring (col. 2, ll. 52-65), wherein the address disable signal would have been implemented after the address, from the burst of data, is properly received and then the address disable signal is initiated when the burst of data words commences to be transferred, therefore, resulting in placing the address write control line in an address write-enabled state during the one-word of address transferring period and in an address write-disabled state for an (N-1) data words transferring period following the address periodically, wherein N is the total number of data transferred including the address and the burst of data words; and

storing of a value indicating the total number of words to be transferred in a incrementor/word count register (Fig. 3, ref. 44) (col. 5, ll. 34-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Gephardt's address disable signaling and the value indicating the total number of words to be transferred into AAPA's data transfer control system and method. The resulting combination of the references further teaches the

data transfer control system and method connected to the bus for controlling the data transfer to the device on the bus comprising:

the bus cycle controlling step placing the address write control line in the address write-enabled state during the one-word of address transferring period and in the address write-disabled state for the (N-1) data words transferring period following the address periodically, wherein N is the total number of data stored in the transfer interval storing step including the address and the burst of data words;

by implementing each transferring in fix length such that each transferring includes the address following by the burst of data words, therefore, resulting in the storing of intervals between addresses of the plurality of data words, wherein each interval would be equally-separated because of the fix length transferring, wherein the interval is associated with be the value indicating the total number of data words to be transferred, and is included in the burst of data transferred in order to properly maintain a count on the number of data words to be transferred; and

maintaining the interval between addresses to which the data is not to be transferred for other peripheral devices as the address write control line is placed in the address write-disabled state.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Gephardt with AAPA for the benefit of preventing the other peripheral devices to write to the same range of address locations, which would resulting in overwriting the data words transferred by the instant peripheral device (Gephardt, col. 2, ll. 54-62).

3. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821), and further in view of Sheafor et al. (US Patent 6,321,285) and Kreifels (US Patent 4,891,788).

AAPA and Gephardt teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where AAPA further teaches the data transfer control system comprising:

cycle start address storing (AAPA, Drawings, cycle start address register 108 of Fig. 19) means for storing a start address of a bus cycle (AAPA, Drawings, Fig. 19-20B and Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7); and

interrupted-cycle resuming (AAPA, Drawings, interrupted-cycle resuming section 105c of Fig. 19).

AAPA and Gephardt does not expressly teach the data transfer control system further comprising:

resumption address calculating means for calculating a destination address of second data when being informed by the device about interruption of the data transfer during the time when the data transfer is performed in the write-disabled state; and

means for transferring the address calculated by the resumption address calculating means to the cycle start address storing means to start a new bus cycle from the address stored in the cycle start address storing means when being informed by the device about interruption of the data transfer during the time when the data transfer is performed in the write-disabled state.

Sheafor teaches a data transfer control system comprising the interruption of the connection between the master device and the slave device, as the master device detect and thus informed by the slave device of said interruption, the master device then restart transfer of next set of data with a new address (col. 38, l. 34 to col. 40, l. 32), wherein the derivation of the new address would obvious require calculation.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Sheafor's new address upon initiation of the interrupt by the slave device into AAPA and Gephardt's data transfer control system. The resulting combination of the references teaches the data transfer control system further comprising upon detection of the interrupt while data transferring between the master device and the slave device, wherein the master device detect and thus informed by the slave device of said interrupt, the master device then calculate the new address and restart transfer of next set of data with the new address; and the new address would have been transferred to the cycle start address storing means as the cycle start address storing means provides the start address for the new bus cycle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sheafor with AAPA and Gephardt for the benefit of proper transfer of data between master device and slave device upon detection of the interrupt in the connection initiated by either the master device or the slave device (Sheafor, col. 38, l. 34 to col. 40, l. 32).

Kreifels teaches a data transfer control system comprising a dual port FIFO, wherein said dual port FIFO can implement read operation and write operation

independently (Fig. 1 and col. 1, ll. 15-24), as the dual ported FIFO can implement the write operation while the read operation is disabled.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Kreifels's dual port FIFO into AAPA, Gephardt and Sheafor's data transferring control system. The resulting combination of the references teaches the implementing the write operation into the dual port FIFO while the read operation is disabled by the write-disable stated, as data are not read from the dual port FIFO to be written.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kreifels with AAPA, Gephardt and Sheafor for the benefit of providing a truly asynchronous operation, as the write operation and be independent of the read operation (Kreifels, col. 1, ll. 15-24).

4. As per claim 7, AAPA, Gephardt, Sheafor and Kreifels teaches all the limitations of claim 3 as discussed above, where AAPA and Kreifels further teach the data transfer control system further comprising wherein the bus cycle controlling means drives next one-word data to be transferred onto a data line (AAPA, Drawings, Data 1 transferring from data buffer to data register on Fig. 20A) when the write control line is in the write-disabled state (Kreifels, Fig. 1 and col. 1, ll. 15-24), wherein write operation is enabled while the read operation is disabled by the write-disable stated, as data are not read out to be written.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821), and further in view of Fabre (US Patent 6,993,605).

AAPA and Gephardt teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where AAPA further teaches the data transfer control system further comprising wherein the data transfer conform to the PCI standard (AAPA, Drawings, Fig. 19), it would have been obvious that data can be transfer in a plurality of modes comprising burst mode and repeat transfer of a single word data mode.

AAPA and Gephardt does note expressly teach the data transfer control system further comprising:

response speed storing means for storing a device response speed of a target device;

transfer speed comparing means for comparing the data transfer rate in a burst transfer mode with the data transfer rate in a data transfer mode where transfer of one-word data to a destination address is repeated, based on the values of the transfer interval storing means and the response speed storing means; and

transfer mode selecting means for selecting the burst transfer mode if the data transfer rate is faster in the burst transfer mode than in the data transfer mode where transfer of one-word data to a destination address is repeated and, if otherwise, selecting the data transfer mode where one-word data transfer bus cycle for a destination address is repeated.

Fabre teaches a data transfer control system comprising:

a table (Fig. 2, ref. 170) storing information comprising a plurality of aggregate data transfer rates and corresponding data samples, wherein said information is characterized by the time delay between data transferred and reception of response from the peripheral device (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42);

a optimizer (Fig. 2, ref. 180) comprising a comparator, base on the information stored in said table, determining the best and/or preferred aggregated data transfer rate (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42); and

selecting data sample to be use as model for future transfer (Fig. 2, ref. 185), wherein the selection would allow the specific peripheral to function at peak speed and efficiency (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Fabre's table, optimizer and selection of data sample for future transfer into AAPA and Gephardt's data transfer control system comprising plurality of modes of data transferring.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fabre with AAPA and Gephardt for the benefit of providing the peak speed and efficient rate of data transferring between the CPU (master device) and the peripheral (slave device) (Fabre, col. 7, ll. 16-58).

6. Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821), Sheafor et

al. (US Patent 6,321,285) and Kreifels (US Patent 4,891,788), and further in view of Fabre (US Patent 6,993,605).

AAPA, Gephardt, Sheafor and Kreifels teaches all the limitations of claim 3 as discussed above, where AAPA further teaches the data transfer control system comprising wherein the data transfer conform to the PCI standard (AAPA, Drawings, Fig. 19), it would have been obvious that data can be transfer in a plurality of modes comprising burst mode and repeat transfer of a single word data.

AAPA, Gephardt, Sheafor and Kreifels does note expressly teach the data transfer control system further comprising:

response speed storing means for storing a device response speed of a target device;

transfer speed comparing means for comparing the data transfer rate in a burst transfer mode with the data transfer rate in a data transfer mode where transfer of one-word data to a destination address is repeated, based on the values of the transfer interval storing means and the response speed storing means; and

transfer mode selecting means for selecting the burst transfer mode if the data transfer rate is faster in the burst transfer mode than in the data transfer mode where transfer of one-word data to a destination address is repeated and, if otherwise, selecting the data transfer mode where one-word data transfer bus cycle for a destination address is repeated.

Fabre teaches a data transfer control system comprising:

a table (Fig. 2, ref. 170) storing information comprising a plurality of aggregate data transfer rates and corresponding data samples, wherein said information is characterized by the time delay between data transferred and reception of response from the peripheral device (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42);

a optimizer (Fig. 2, ref. 180) comprising a comparator, base on the information stored in said table, determining the best and/or preferred aggregated data transfer rate (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42); and

selecting data sample to be use as model for future transfer (Fig. 2, ref. 185), wherein the selection would allow the specific peripheral to function at peak speed and efficiency (Fig. 2; Fig. 5; col. 6, l. 33 to col. 7, l. 58 and col. 9, ll. 13-42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Fabre's table, optimizer and selection of data sample for future transfer into AAPA, Gephardt, Sheafor and Kreifels' data transfer control system comprising plurality of modes of data transferring.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fabre with AAPA, Gephardt, Sheafor and Kreifels for the benefit of providing the peak speed and efficient rate of data transferring between the CPU (master device) and the peripheral (slave device) (Fabre, col. 7, ll. 16-58).

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821), and further in view of Kreifels (US Patent 4,891,788).

AAPA and Gephardt teach all the limitations of claim 2 as discussed above, where AAPA further teaches the data transfer control system further comprising wherein the bus cycle controlling means drives next one-word data to be transferred onto a data line (AAPA, Drawings, Data 1 transfer to Data register on Fig. 20A) when the write control line is in the write-enabled state (AAPA, Drawings, write enabled when the byte enable register set to "0000") (Drawings, Fig. 19-20B and Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7).

AAPA and Gephardt does not teach the data transfer control system further comprising the bus cycle controlling means drives next one-word data to be transferred onto a data line when the write control line is in the write-disabled state.

Kreifels teaches a data transfer control system comprising a dual port FIFO, wherein said dual port FIFO can implement read operation and write operation independently (Fig. 1 and col. 1, ll. 15-24), as the dual ported FIFO can implement the write operation while the read operation is disabled.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Kreifels's dual port FIFO into AAPA and Gephardt's data transferring control system. The resulting combination of the references teaches the implementing the write operation into the dual port FIFO while the read operation is disabled by the write-disable stated, as data are not read from the dual port FIFO to be written.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kreifels with AAPA and Gephardt for the benefit of providing an truly asynchronous operation, as the write operation and be independent of the read operation (Kreifels, col. 1, ll. 15-24).

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), Gephardt et al (US Patent 5,561,821) and Fabre (US Patent 6,993,605), and further in view of Kreifels (US Patent 4,891,788).

AAPA, Gephardt and Fabre teach all the limitations of claim 4 as discussed above, where AAPA further teaches the data transfer control system further comprising wherein the bus cycle controlling means drives next one-word data to be transferred onto a data line (AAPA, Drawings, Data 1 transferring from data buffer to data register on Fig. 20A) when the write control line is in the write-enabled state (AAPA, Drawings, write enabled when the byte enable register set to "0000") (Drawings, Fig. 19-20B and Specification, page 1, l. 9 to page 2, l. 7).

AAPA, Gephardt and Fabre does not teach the data transfer control system further comprising the bus cycle controlling means drives next one-word data to be transferred onto a data line when the write control line is in the write-disabled state.

Kreifels teaches a data transfer control system comprising a dual port FIFO, wherein said dual port FIFO can implement read operation and write operation independently (Fig. 1 and col. 1, ll. 15-24), as the dual ported FIFO can implement the write operation while the read operation is disabled.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art, at the time of invention was made to include Kreifels's dual port FIFO into AAPA, Gephardt and Fabre's data transferring control system. The resulting combination of the references teaches the implementing the write operation into the dual port FIFO while the read operation is disabled by the write-disable stated, as data are not read from the dual port FIFO to be written.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kreifels with AAPA, Gephardt and Fabre for the benefit of providing an truly asynchronous operation, as the write operation and be independent of the read operation (Kreifels, col. 1, ll. 15-24).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-0671. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fritz M. Fleming can be reached on (571) 272-4145. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

C.K.L.
09/20/2006

Fritz Fleming

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